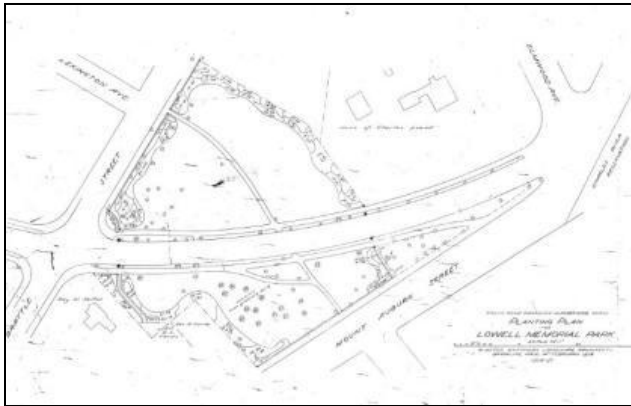




MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

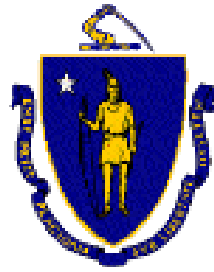
# Lowell Memorial Park

## Cultural Landscape Report and Wall Repair



## DCR Public Meeting

September 23, 2014  
7:00-8:30pm  
New School of Music  
25 Lowell Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Deval L. Patrick**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Maeve Vallely Bartlett**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

**John P. Murray**



## **DCR Mission Statement**

*To protect, promote and enhance our  
common wealth of natural, cultural  
and recreational resources  
for the well-being of all.*

# Property/Project History

- 2012 DCR listening session
- Public interest in improving park
  - Wall repair
  - Tree care
  - Benches
  - Maintenance (trash, litter, snow)
- DCR committed to
  - Cultural Landscape Report
  - Assessment of Historic Walls
  - Design documents for Wall Repair



# Purpose of Meeting

- To review findings of the Cultural Landscape Report
- To finalize DCR's preservation priorities
- Update community on plans for repairs to the historic walls



## Cultural Landscape Report Lowell Memorial Park

Within the Charles River Reservation



August 2014

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Bureau of Planning and Resource Protection  
Office of Cultural Resources

# Project Goals

- Document history and existing conditions
- Establish preservation framework
- Prioritize preservation recommendations
- Assess condition of walls, plan for repair



# Components of a CLR

- Introduction
- Part 1: Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation
- Part 2: Treatment
- Part 3: Record of Treatment



# What is Lowell Memorial Park?

## Historic Site



## Elmwood

- Oliver
- Gerry
- Lowell

## National Historic Landmark

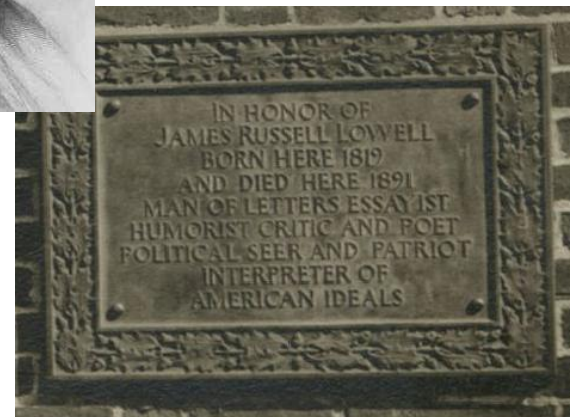


From 1877 City of Cambridge map, Franklin View Co.  
(Courtesy Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the  
Boston Public Library)

# What is Lowell Memorial Park?

## Memorial to James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

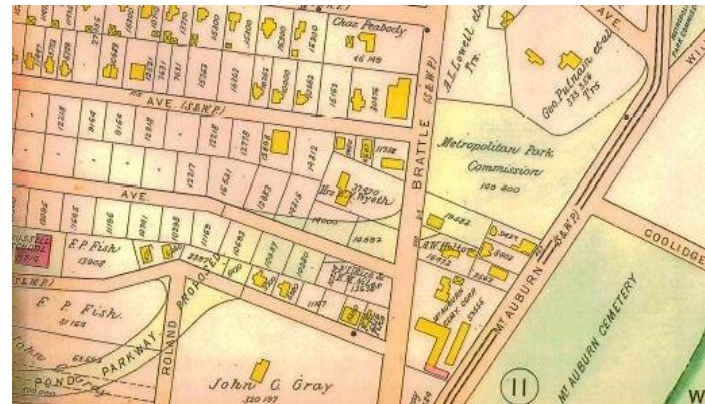
- Fireside Poet
- Abolitionist
- Ambassador



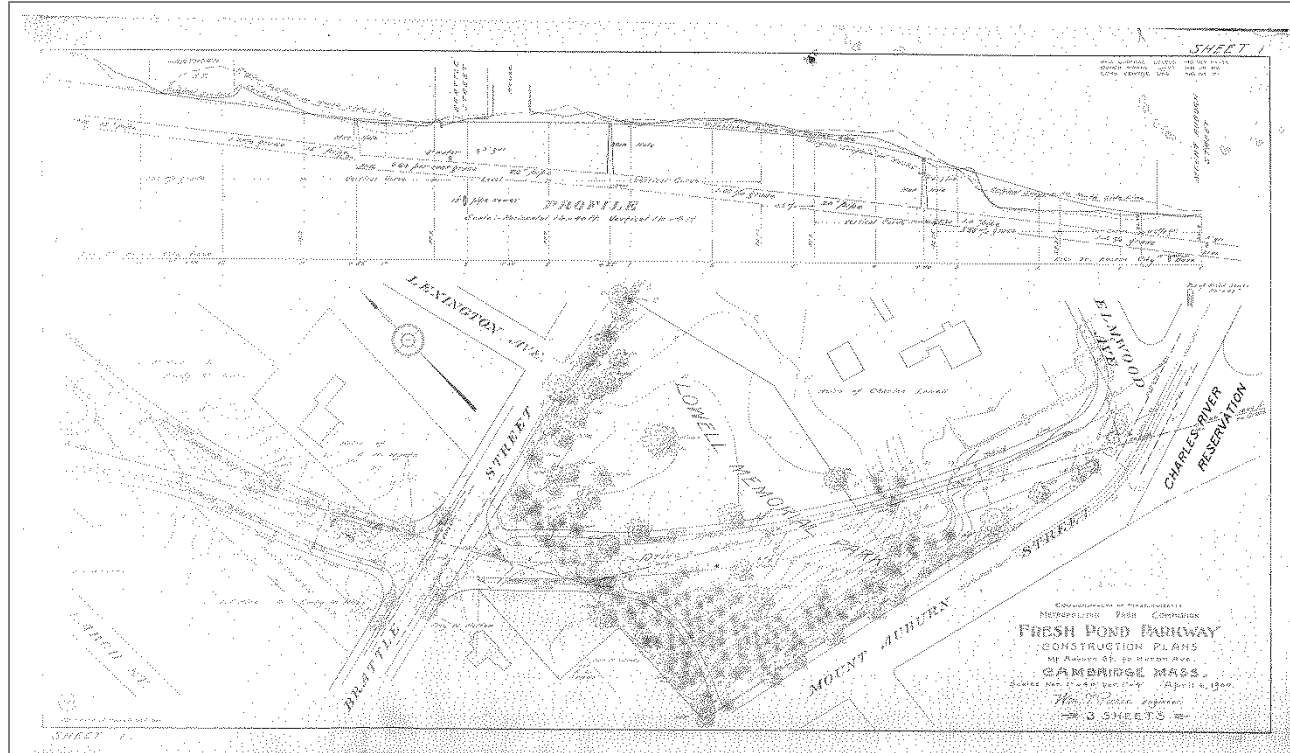
# What is Lowell Memorial Park?

## Part of Nation's First Regional Park System

- Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston
- National Register of Historic Places

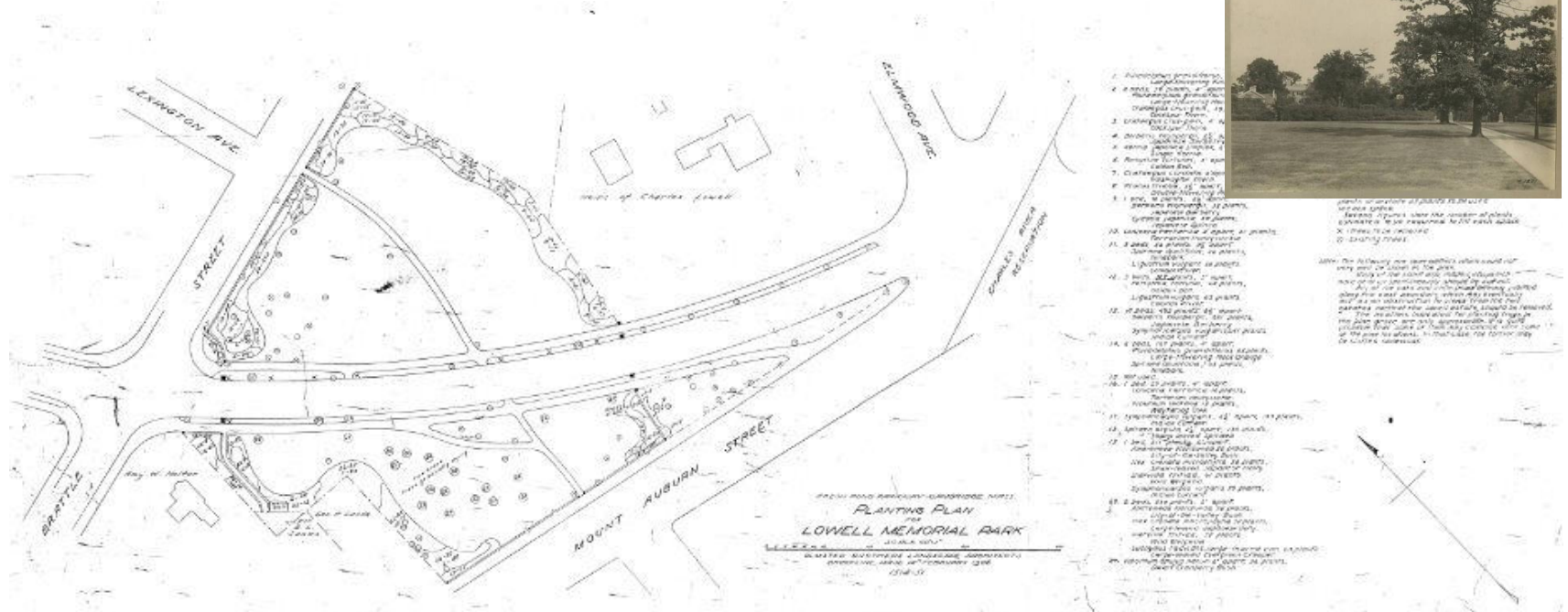


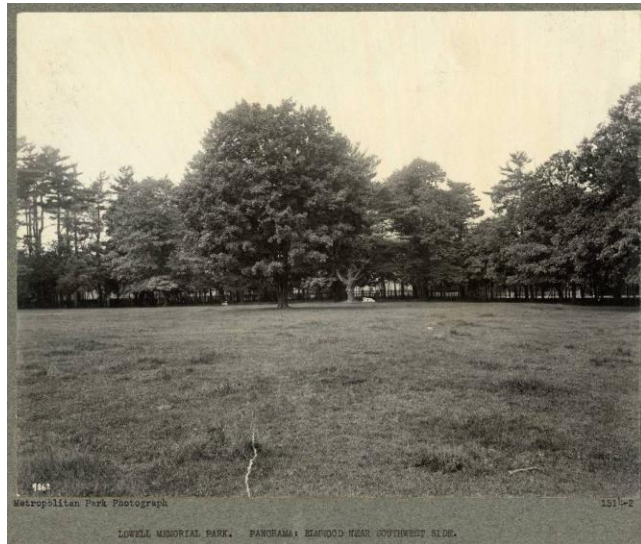
1900 Atlas of Middlesex Co.  
(Courtesy of Cambridge Historical Commission)

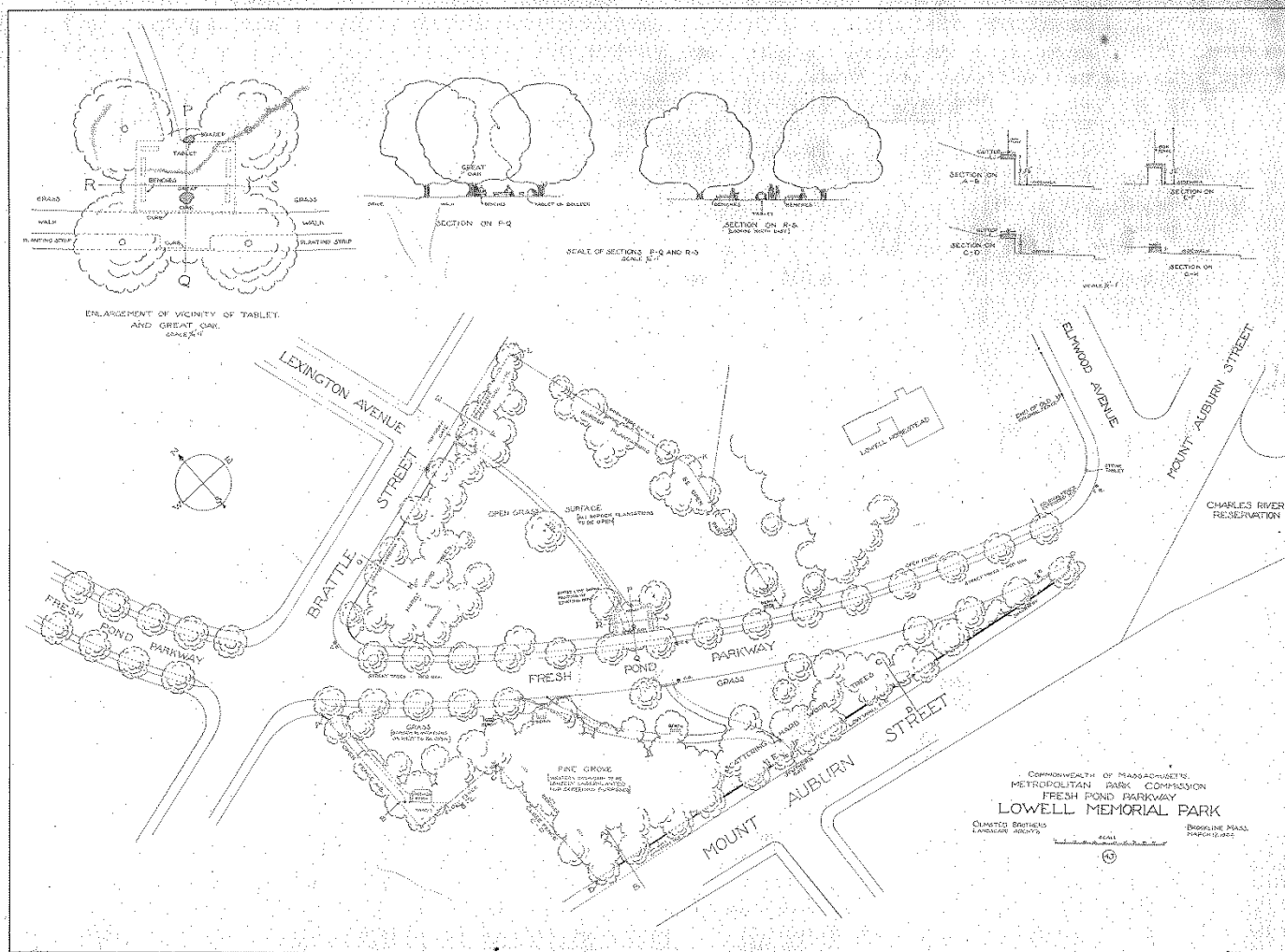


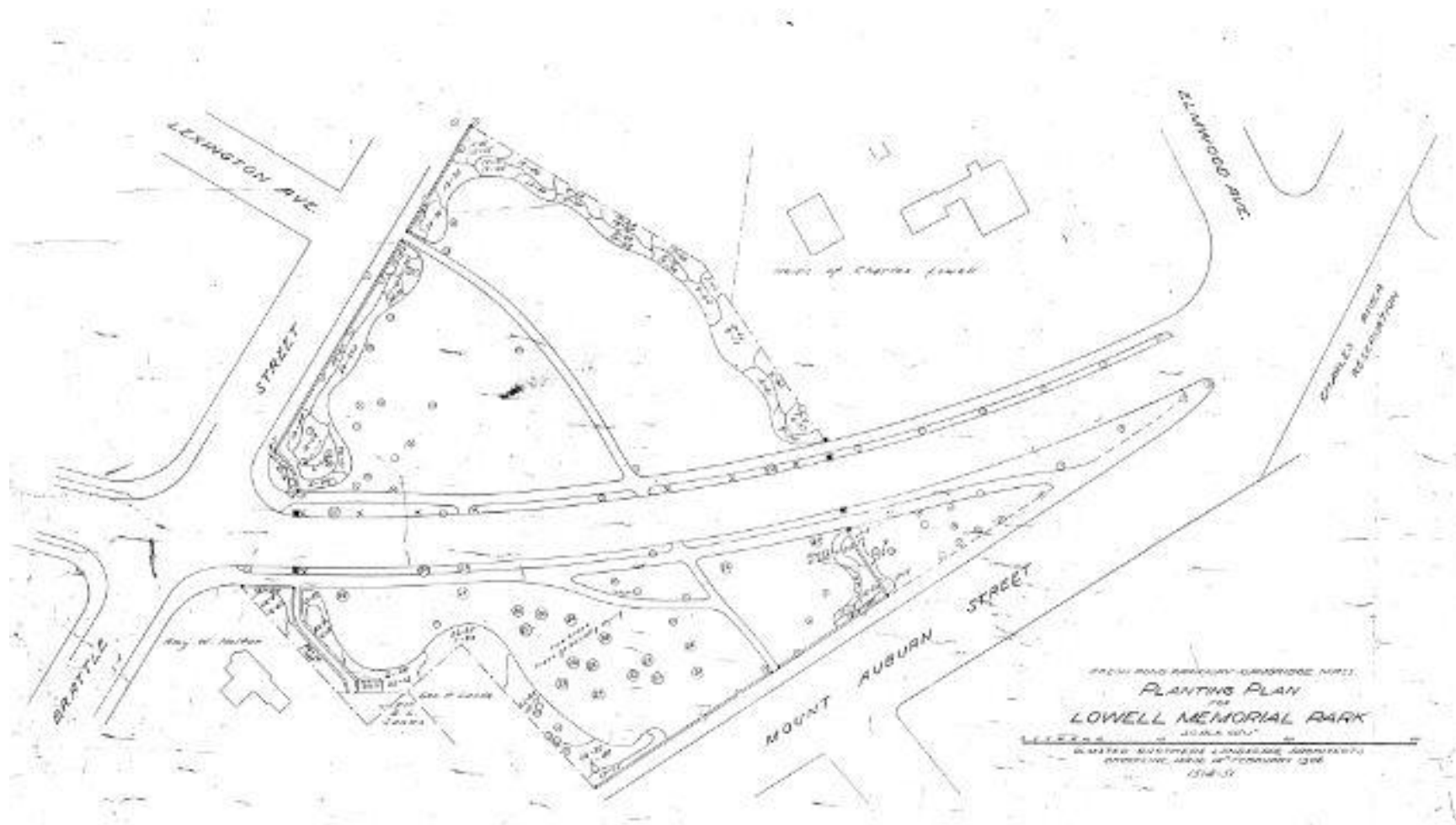
# What is Lowell Memorial Park?

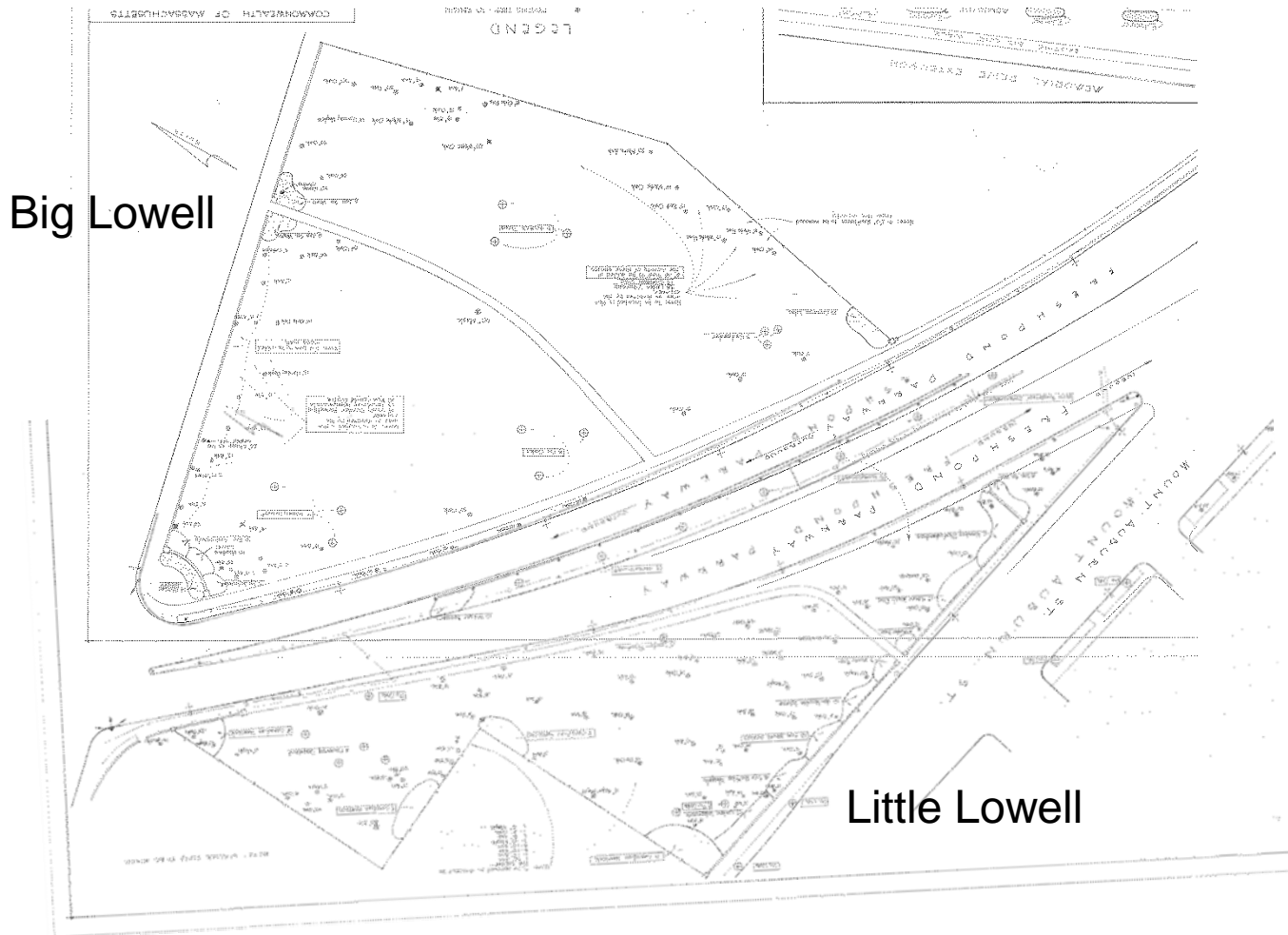
## Work of a noted designer – The Olmsted Brothers







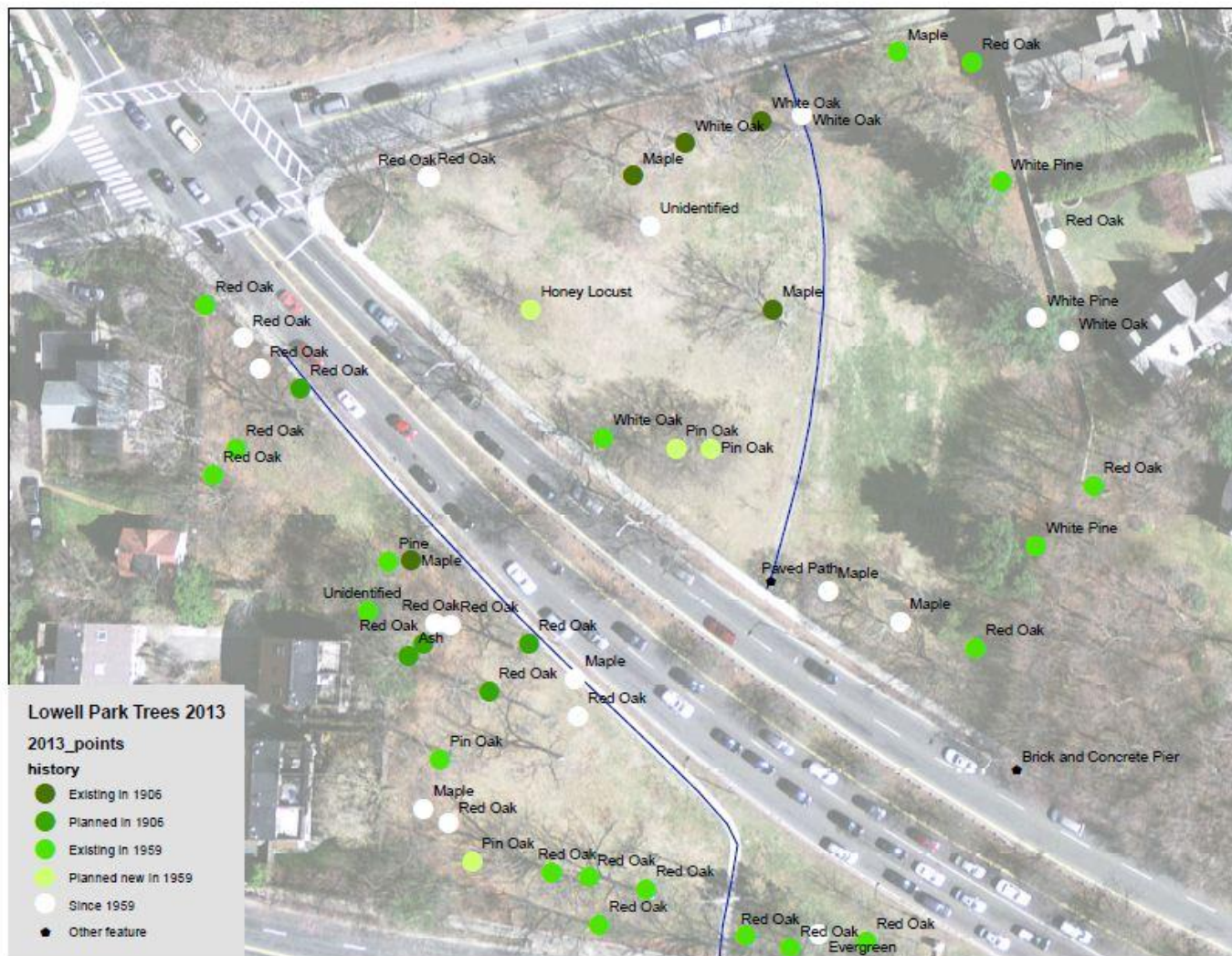




**1959 Shurcliff & Merrill Planting Plan**

# Existing Conditions





## 2013 Large tree Inventory

# Preservation Treatment

- **Rehabilitation** acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.
- **Restoration** depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.



# Priority Recommendations

- Brick Walls and Posts
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Site Amenities
- Management issues
- Interpretation



# Priority Recommendations

- Repair historic walls
- Restore bronze plaques



# Priority Recommendations

- Tree removal and pruning plan
- Remove/control invasive plants
- Restore shrub border (need planting plan)
- Rehabilitate turf
- Plan for replacement of ancient maple



# Priority Recommendations

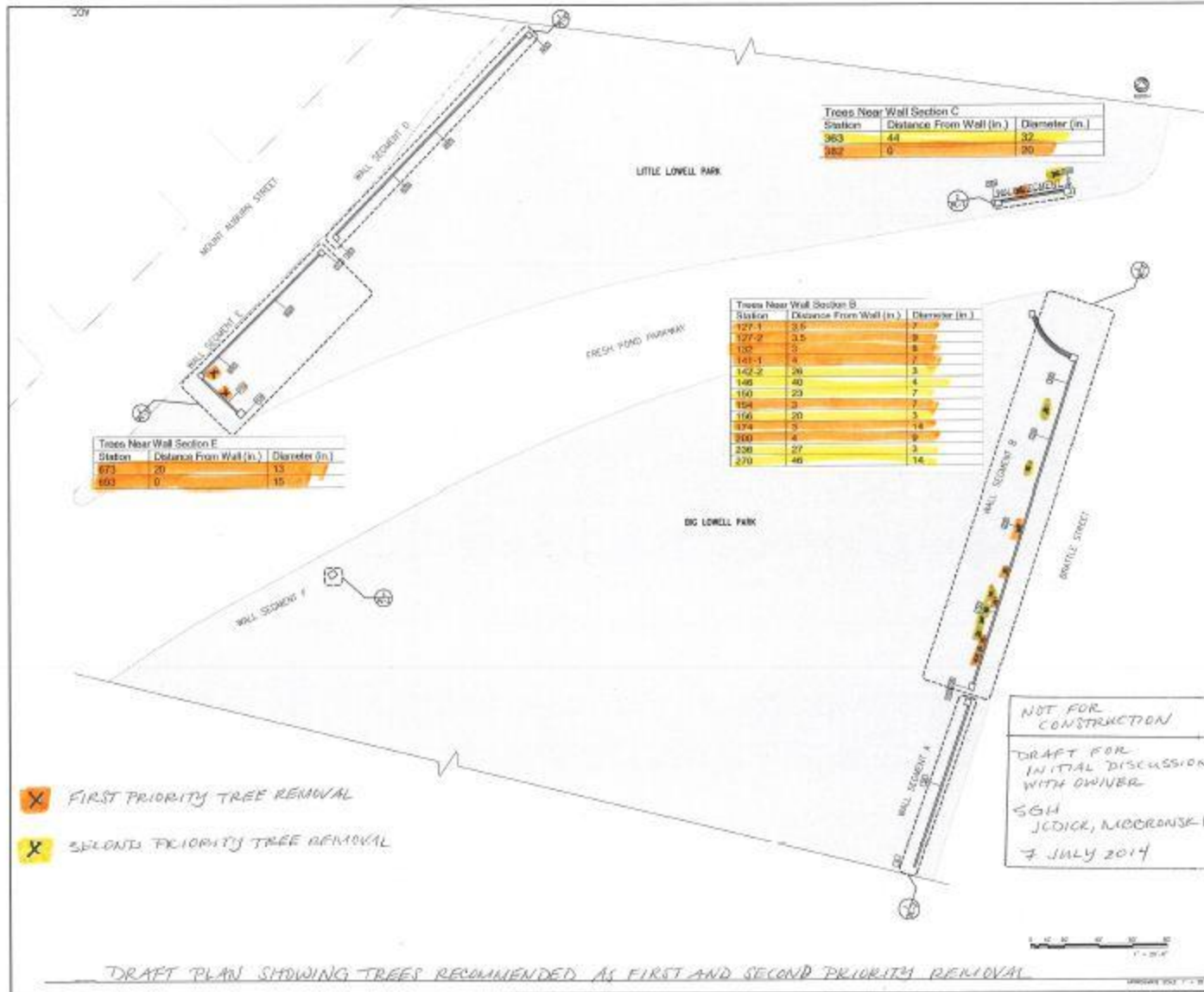
- Rehabilitate pathways for ADA
- Widen Mount Auburn Street entrance gate by 8"
- Install appropriate signage
- Replace benches
- Replace light



# Wall Repair Project

- DCR hired engineers Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
- Historic Assessment (2013)
- Plans and Specifications now in development
- Estimated repair cost of \$294,000
- Associated tree work
- Phasing work - Northern vs. Southern sections first





**SIMPSON GARNETT & HODGE**  
Engineering of Structures  
Including Foundation

**dcr**  
Massachusetts

**DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AND  
RECREATION  
REPAIR OF HISTORIC  
BRICK WALLS  
LOWELL MEMORIAL PARK**  
RFP Project Number: P14-001-001

**KEY PLAN**

**PL-1**  
ADD.

**50% PROGRESS SET - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

# Wall Treatment



Clean, repoint, repair cracks



Replace broken bricks, patch small cracks



Remove graffiti

# Wall Treatment



Fill, patch



Stabilize, preserve



Restore Plaques

# Wall Treatment



**North**



**South**

**Big Lowell**

**Little Lowell**

**Wall repair priorities?**



# Maintenance

- April or May: Spring cleanup
- May-September: Summer maintenance schedule including mowing every 14 days or as dictated by weather conditions
- November: Regional leaf removal program dictated by leaf drop, and prioritized by Parkway flood potential.
- December-April: Snow removal according to DCR's Winter Storm Management Plan and Priority Map
- Year round: Storm damage cleanup, Emergency response, Enforcement issues (MSP or Park Rangers) as needed
- MassParks 617-626-1250

# Questions and Answers

## Next Steps

- Hear what you have to say
- Follow up meeting – implementation update  
– late October/early November
- Finalize Plans and Specifications for wall repair project
- Carry out priority tree work (flag trees)
- Carry out wall repair

Project Manager: [Wendy.pearl@state.ma.us](mailto:Wendy.pearl@state.ma.us) 617-626-1389



# Additional Information

For more information:

- Web: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>
- Cultural Landscape Report posted here:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources/>

If you have comments:

Email: [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us)

**Note “Lowell Memorial Park” in the subject line**

Call: **617-626-4974**

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach,  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR by email or letter may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.

If you have questions or concerns or would like to be added to an email list to receive DCR general announcements:

Email: [MassParks@state.ma.us](mailto:MassParks@state.ma.us)

Call: **617-626-4973**